

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

ADVERTISER

WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE

OK

CHICAGO OUTLET

() - BLUE () () DAY

TIME

11:30-1 :15 PM

DATE

MARCH 3, 1939

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers

ESSIE: MARTIN, SAMUEL'S SON

ANNOUNCER: In the lower Mississippi valley in 1937, in the Northeast in 1936 and again in 1938, in the Ohio Valley in 1937, in Southern California in 1938, floods left hundreds of thousands homeless and destroyed millions of dollars worth of property. -- If you dig into the soil of a forest or a grass covered field, you will find a porous layer of decayed leaves and plants which will obviously absorb a considerable amount of moisture. Scientists state that the uppermost inch of such porous soil in a forest will absorb 10 times as much moisture as compact, barren soil. --- This comparatively thin layer of material is undeniably a vital element in the regulation of streamflow and the conservation of water resources. But it is only present where land is covered with trees, brush and plants. Thus anything which endangers this protective cover on our watersheds is a menace to be reckoned with at once. On farm lands, practices which promote water conservation must be encouraged. On uncultivated lands, destructive methods of logging must be changed, overgrazing controlled, and forest fires prevented. Our National Forests are an influential factor in the drainages of many of the large streams in the country. The timber cutting and grazing policies of the United States Forest Service give major consideration to the protective cover these National Forests provide. And today the Forest Service is endeavoring to aid the advance of wiser conservation of our forest and water resources, with the cooperation of many national, state and local organizations.

ANNOUNCER CONTINUED:

Well, folks, it's time for us to say our weekly visit to the Pine Cone National Forest. We find Ranger Jim Robbins, his wife Bess, and Mary Holloway, the local school teacher, in the living room of the Ranger station. The supper dishes have been washed and dried, and Bess and Mary have settled down to their sewing. Mary has been telling Jim and Bess about the official call of the school board today ---

MARY: No, I didn't think anything about it when Mr. Black asked me what time we were going to have our lesson on conservation, but when he came into the room later and sat in one of the vacant seats while we had the recitation, I was really curious, Mrs. Robbins. I thought -- I hope you could tell me why he did it.

BESS: Well, Mary, Jason Black has a special reason for being interested in forest conservation.

MARY: He has? A special reason?

BESS: Yes -- Why don't you tell Mary about Jason and his brother, Jim?

MARY: I didn't know he had a brother --

JIM: Yes. His brother's name was Dan. He had a wife named Dolores. They were the first friends Bess and I had, when we came onto the Pine Cone Forest.

BESS: They had the loveliest home on their ranch down the valley below here about thirty miles, Mary. Oh, it was a gem of a place, with a red tile roof and white walls and a lovely patio on the side toward the river. Goodness, we sat there so many times in the evening with Dan and Dolores --

MARY: Please tell me about them, Mr. Robbins.

1001 Well, Mary -- Jason Black was logging here with the
 1002 Northern Logging Company in these days, and outfit he
 1003 owns now. He was the wildest, scoundrelous scoundrel this
 1004 side of the Sierras. His brother Dan was always getting
 1005 him out of one scrape or another. And this time -- Jason
 1006 had got into a fight down in Mining Creek. I sent word
 1007 to Dan about it. It had been raining pretty hard for
 1008 about a week, but Dan and Dolores came up to our place
 1009 while Dan and I went to get Jason out of jail, Dolores
 1010 stayed at the cabin with Bess --

1011 (FADEOUT FOR FLASH-BACK)

1012 DOLORES: (FADING IN) The sun's trying awfully hard to come out
 1013 Bess.

1014 BESS: I hope it does, Dolores. I'm so tired of this rain.

1015 DOLORES: What time is it, Bess?

1016 BESS: It's almost two o'clock now, Dolores. The men ought to
 1017 be here any time.

1018 DOLORES: Dan said he was afraid he might have more trouble with
 1019 the Sheriff this time.

1020 BESS: I should think he would.

1021 THEY LAUGH

1022 DOLORES: Oh, Dan's grown accustomed to it. He says if he ever
 1023 had to budget his time, he'd have to put aside at least
 1024 one day a week to get Jason out of trouble.

1025 BESS: You'd think Dan was his father instead of his brother.

DOLORIS: He very nearly is, in a way. But I've never seen two brothers who were closer friends. And Jason will be a dear boy, for all his escapades. Last week he spent two days helping Ben buy up our new windmill. And he always remembers our wedding anniversary, and our birthdays --

BESS: Jim says he's by far the best logging boss the Timber Mountain outfit ever had, even if he is hardly more than a boy.

VOICES OF MEN IN DISTANCE

DOLORIS: I've heard he's a good logger and Dan's proud of it. And sometimes I think he takes a secret pride in Jason's fighting and the trouble he gets himself into --

BESS: Oh, I hear that outside too, Dolores --

DOOR OPENS WITH BANG

JASON: (OFF) Everybody hike for cover. (FADING IN) Here comes Jason the Red Man.

DOLORIS: (LAUGHING) Oh, Jason, you fool.

BESS: Hello, Jason.

DOLORIS: Just look at his face, Jess -- Jason, you'll never live to be a handsome old man. You'll be a battle-scarred veteran. Your face is all cut and your eyes flattened --

JASON: It wasn't a fault, Dolores. Some of 'em was so fat they couldn't jump the Virginia Creek. Fast Officer got 'em over the top of the canyon. When along comes a couple more, taller and probably fitter, they open in the street. I didn't mind that so much, but the way they was settin' and squerrin' their poor horses was more 'n I could stand. So I pulled one of 'em off his horse, and then the other one jumped on me from behind. But if the Sheriff hadn't come along when he did, I'd've had 'em both mollerin' for quite a while.

THE WOMEN LAUGH

JAN: (FADING IN: QUIET, LACONIC) That ain't the way I heard it, ladies.

DOLORES: Hello, dear

BESS: Jim came back with you, didn't he, Dan?

DAN: Yes. He's gettin' a bag of oats for the horses, Bees. He gotta head back home right soon. Looks like there's another storm blowing up, and it'll be dark before we make it now.

BEES: You aren't going to stay over night with us?

DAN: I've got a deal on tomorrow, Bees. Buyin' a few cattle. I had to put it off a day 's it was what with mollerin' this no-account timber rat out of jail.

JASON: Don'tcha say no mind to him, folks. He's only got some in his pocketbook, from payin' my fine.

(SOUND OF DOOR)

JIM: (FADING IN) I slung the oats into the back of your
sackboard, Dan.

DAN: Thank you, Jim.

JIM: Wish you'd change your mind and stay here tonight with us.

DAN: We'll make up for it next time, Jim. Ready to go, dear?

DOCTOR S: Yes, Dan.

DAN: Think it'd be safe to give this jailbird a lift to the
top of the ridge?

JASON: Don't trouble yourself. I'll steal one of Jim's horses
when he ain't lookin'.

JIM: I want to talk with you for a bit, anyway, Jason.

JASON: All right with me, so long as it ain't no sermon.

THEY LAUGH

DAN: (FADING) Well, Jim. I guess we'll have to be movin'.

SOUND: DOOR OPENS

JIM: (FADING) We'll go out with you, Dan.

(PAUSE)

SOUND: DOOR CLOSES

BESS: (FADING IN) I wish they would have stayed with us tonight,
Jim. I don't like the idea of their going down into the
valley over the worst part of the road at night, and with
another storm coming up.

JIM: Well, I know Dan wanted to see about those cattle tomorrow.

JASON: It wouldn't have happened if I hadn't got myself into this mess -- But you should have seen the Sheriff, when Dan and Jim walked into the jail, Boss. You'd have seen that the Lord had sent down a couple of archangels to bail me out.

BOSS: Jason, you know you shouldn't fight and get into trouble all the time. I hope you'll forgive me for saying so, but Dolores was awfully worried about you. She didn't say anything. But I know.

JASON: Do you think she was?

BOSS: Why, Jason, you look as if you're pleased about it.

JASON: No, I'm not, really -- only -- well, you see -- you see, Dan and I met Dolores at the same time, when we was in Tucson one time. And both of us fell for her like a stroke of lightning -- (CHUCKLING) It did + take her much time to tell which was the best man, so she married him. I been sorta like the third wheel of the cart since then, but we git along fine. I ordered Dan put up his windmill last week, the new one he bought that's all metal, and he was gonna put it up by the barn. But I made him put it close to the house, and pipe the water inside, so Dolores wouldn't have to walk to get it.

BOSS: That was very thoughtful of you, Jason.

JASON: --- Well, Jim, what was this business you wanted to talk

JIM: Well, Jason -- it's this -- With all the rain we've been havin' the past week, the river's come up considerable, and I've been watchin' it pretty close.

JASON: I noticed it was high when we crossed the bridge at Winding Creek.

JIM: There's a lot of wood ashes in that water -- wood ashes off the slopes of King Mountain, where you've been logging for the past four years.

JASON: Sure, Jim, but you always get that after a fire's burned over any part of the forest.

JIM: Exactly, Jason. I've told you before the trouble you fellows are going to run into because you've stripped all the timber off this side of the Mountain and left nothing but stumps and slash.

JASON: Well, Jim, it's like I always say: We're in the logging business. We cut logs to sell. We can't leave half of the timber like you want us to. With a big outfit like we have, it takes a pile of timber to show us a profit.

RUMBLE OF THUNDER IN THE DISTANCE

JIM: I WON'T go into that angle of it with you, Jason, but here's something you ought to give some consideration right now. You fellas have stripped the east slopes of King Mountain bare. Early this summer a fire finished the job you started. When there were trees on those slopes, there was a cover over the ground that absorbed the rain like a sponge, let it seep down to the river gradually. Now it's like the roof of a barn. The rain runs off as soon as it hits the ground. And that's a dangerous menace to the people who live in the valley below us, -- Jason, you're one of the few men the King Mountain outfit will listen to. If you told them about the danger you've caused in the valley, they might be convinced that they ought to do something about it. Practice selective cutting so as to leave some young trees on the ground. Plant some trees on those naked slopes where you've already cut. Give them a chance to --

RUMBLE OF DISTANT THUNDER

JASON: Say, Jim, if you'll pardon me, I've got to get back to camp tonight, and with this storm coming up --

JIM: Yep, there's another storm coming up all right. I reckon you'd better be going.

JASON: I'll talk with you about this some other time, Jim.
(FADING) But I sorta doubt whether the outfit will be able to --

MUSIC UP AND UNDER

JIM: The rain started pouring down again that night, and kept it up day in and day out. Bess and I watched the river grow wider and wider down in the valley. Before long we saw chicken coops and farm wagons floating down stream. It stopped raining after a while, but the river got higher and higher. Then one afternoon, Jason came riding up to our cabin. His horse was spattered with mud and blowing hard. He said a rider had come into the logging camp with news that all the farms and ranches in the valley below us were under water. -- We took fresh horses from my corral and started for Dan's place. It was dark before we got there. (FADE IN DEEP ROAR OF FLOOD, GRADUALLY INCREASING) As we rode down the trail into the valley we saw lights below us. It was a crowd of people with their household goods and farm implements piled around them -- the few things that were saved when the water drove them out of their homes. We left our horses and walked toward the lights --

FADE IN SMALL CROWD TO B.G., WOMEN'S VOICES AND CHILDREN WHIMPERING

JASON: (FADING IN) Have you seen Dan Black? I'm his brother. Do you know if he got away from his place all right?

JIM: His ranch is down near the river a little south of this road.

FARMER: We seen him and his wife out on the roof of their house before it got dark.

JASON: You mean nobody went to get 'em?

FARMER: We ain't got but one boat here, mister, and it ain't no good.

JASON: But there is a boat?

FARMER: Yes, but if you was to get hit by a tree or smash into --

JASON: Jim, will you go with me?

JIM: Where's the boat?

FARMER: Right here in the water, Ranger.

JASON: (FADING) Come on, Jim.

JIM: (FADING) Can you loan us a lantern?

FARMER: (FADING) Sure, but I hate to see you fellas try it.

JASON: (FADING IN) We'll make it all right. You climb in, Jim.
I'll hold the boat.

THUD AND SCRAPING OF GETTING INTO BOAT

FARMER: (FADING IN) You can take this lantern, Ranger.

JIM: Thanks. I'll hold it while you get in, Jason.

FARMER: Now and again we've seen a light down there in the
direction of Black's place.

JASON: A light, you say? Where?

FARMER: Right out through there, towards the southeast. I don't
see it now.

JIM: You take the lantern and sit in back, Jason. I'll row.

JASON: All right, Jim. Ready to shove off?

JIM: Go ahead.

FARMER: (FADING) Good luck to you, men. We'll keep our lanterns
goin', so you can tell where we are.

FEEBLE GOOD WISHES FROM CROWD

JIM: All right, we'll watch for 'em.

FARMER: (OFF) Good luck to you. Good luck.

JASON: (FADING) I think I see the light they were talkin' about, Jim --

PAUSE: SOUND OF FLOOD CONTINUES: ALSO CREAK OF OAR LOCKS AND SPLASH OF OARS

JIM: (FADE IN PULLING OARS) Reckon I'd better keep pullin' out into the current so we don't go past the house.

JASON: That's right, Jim.

JIM: (PAUSE) Can you still see the light?

JASON: Not all the time. They must be movin' around on top of the house.

JIM: The current's plenty strong here. Am I goin' in the right direction?

JASON: Can you pull a little harder, Jim? -- I ain't sure -- Shucks I can't make out their light any more at all!

JIM: I'm keepin' my eyes lined up on the lanterns back there at the edge of the water.

JASON: Huh? -- Oh, I see. Say, we're out farther than I thought. (PAUSE) I wish Dan would show that light better.

JIM: You'd think he'd keep it where it could be seen, in case somebody was to try to get to em.

JASON: Yeah -- Jim, I think we're gettin' pretty close -- I -- I seen something that looks like the windmill --

JIM: Ought to be able to see Dan and Dolores by now.

JASON: You'd think so -- But I don't, Jim. I don't see 'em -- (SHOUTING) Lookout, Jim! There's a tree! Pull upstream! Lookout!

HEAVY WOODEN THUD AND SCRAPING

JASON: Pull upstream sharp, Jim. Upstream -- There it goes. It's all right now.

JIM: (PANTING) How'd it happen? Didn't you see it?

JASON: It bobbed up outa the water right in front of us. Gosh, the water's sure movin' fast out here.

JIM: Any water comin' into the boat?

JASON: There's already so much I can't tell, Jim.

JIM: I'll swing back toward the middle of the stream. Let me know when I'm in position.

JASON: I see the windmill, Jim. It's below us. Pull out a little -- not too much. We can drift right down onto it -- Hold it, Jim. That's good -- Lookout now. We're goin' right into it. Can you grab hold of it?

ROWING STOPS

JIM: All set?

JASON: Here we go.

HEAVY THUD AS BOAT STRIKES WINDMILL

JASON: I've got ahold of it, Jim.

JIM: That's good. Hold onto her. Now where's the house?

JASON: I don't know, Jim --

JIM: It's just a short piece from the windmill, isn't it?

JASON: It -- it's only three or four rods toward the river --

JIM: I don't see it -- They oughta be able to hear us here at the windmill if it's that close.

JASON: Look, Jim. The water's goin' down. See where I'm holdin' the lantern against the leg of the windmill? See that line of foam? You can pick it off in your hand. Its full of something that looks like wood ashes.

JIM: Yeah --- From King Mountain.

JASON: But if the water's goin' down, they oughta be safe --
(SHOUTING) Dan! (LONG DRAWN OUT CALL) ---Ho, Dan! ---
Dolores! --- Hear any answer, Jim?

JIM: Not yet.

JASON: (LONG DRAWN OUT CALL) Ho, Dan! It's Jason. Can you hear me?

JIM: (HESITANT) Jason --- I don't see the house, do you?

JASON: No, Jim --- I don't see it -- But it can't --- Jim, they
can't be. Dan. --- Dolores! -- Dan! -- (SCREAMING) Dan.
(LONG PAUSE) I guess we might as well go back. Jim.

MUSIC UP AND UNDER

JIM: We turned back toward shore and landed about a mile below where we'd started. Jason never spoke a word. And the next day when we rode back along the ridge toward home and I turned down the trail to our cabin, he only nodded when I said goodbye to him. --- About a month later, I saw a crew of men planting trees on the slopes of King Mountain.

MUSIC UP AND OUT

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you every Friday on the Farm and Home Program through the courtesy of the National Broadcasting Company with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

